

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Official Action of March 23, 2005.

Reexamination and reconsideration re respectfully requested.

Priority Acknowledgement

It is noted that the initial Action acknowledges receipt of the certified copy in support of the claim for priority under 35 USC 119.

Drawings

It is noted with appreciation that the drawings filed on December 3, 2003 have been accepted by the Examiner.

Specification

Amendments to the specification were previously submitted on July 20, 2004 and noted by the examiner.

Claims

Claims 1 to 8 were presented for examination. Claims 3, 5, and 7 (dependent on 6) were indicated to be allowable, while claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 8 were rejected as allegedly being anticipated by the patent to Kobayashi, Ref. A, this Action. By this response, the allowable claims are respectively presented without duplication so as to preserve the respective allowable subject matter of claims 5, 3, and 7, 6, respectively.

Specifically, original claim 1 was amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5, so that original claims 1 to 4, and 6 to 8 are allowable as depending on or through an allowable base claim. Similarly, new claims 9 to 14 are added, where claim 9 corresponds to original claim 1 and allowable claim 3. Thus, claims 10, 11 and 12 to 14 corresponding respectively to original claims 2, 4, and 6 to 8 are submitted as dependent on prima facie allowable claim 9, with the subject matter of claim 5 dependent on claims 1 and 3 being considered duplicative of claim 3 dependent on claims 1 and 5 and thus canceled. Finally, a third group of new claims is presented as claims 15 to 18 in which new claim 15 corresponds to original claims 1, 6 and allowable claim 7, with claims 16, 17 and 18 corresponding to original claims 2, 4 and 8 but dependent on a prima facie allowable claim 15.

Accordingly, all claims retained or presented are allowable over the art of record as found in the initial action. Early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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